



## VETERANS SERVICES DIVISION

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# California Action Plan for Reintegration

## California Department of Veterans Affairs

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## Education Benefits for Veterans

### Post 9/11 GI Bill

Many post 9/11 veterans and service members will soon see a new package of education benefits. This new Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition; many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a \$1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits. This GI Bill for the 21st Century has been enacted into law and will be available to veterans for education/training on **August 1, 2009**. The VA is accepting applications as of May 1, 2009. For more detailed and updated information on the new GI Bill go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov> or by calling: 1-888-GI BILL1 (1-888-442-4551).

### GI Bill

As a Veteran, there are several educational programs available and you may use these programs for a wide variety of VA-approved education and training programs, which include: apprenticeship and on-the-job training, college degree and certificate programs, flight training and correspondence courses. Each program provides different benefits to different groups of individuals and offers a specified number of "months" of benefits, typically 36 and the maximum number of months that can be collected under any combination of VA education programs is 48. However, veterans can only use one VA educational benefits for training at a time. For more detailed information on your VA education benefits call: 1-888-GI BILL1 (1-888-442-4551) or visit: [http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI\\_Bill\\_Info/rates.htm](http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm).

### Troops to College

California's Troops to College is an initiative specifically targeted to provide educational opportunities and assistance by the state's premier education segments and related agencies to active duty service members, National Guard soldiers, Military Reservists and veterans. The program is designed to help Veterans transition to civilian life and the college environment, especially combat veterans. Veterans and their families may enroll in a course about combat stress, post-traumatic stress disorders, and other issues affecting veterans returning to civilian life, the course is taught by a VA counselor who is also a combat veteran. The curriculum is specifically designed to increase the student veteran's academic, work, and social

success. The class provides participants instruction in interpersonal skills, methods of adapting to civilian life and work careers, and techniques for managing military operational stress.

For more information visit: [www.troopstocollege.ca.gov](http://www.troopstocollege.ca.gov).

### **California Veterans Education Opportunities Partnership**

In an effort to provide educational opportunities for the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces, the University of California has partnered with Governor Schwarzenegger, the California State success. The class University, California Community Colleges and the California Department of Veterans Affairs to implement the California Veterans Education Opportunity Partnership. This partnership brings together the higher education, veterans and military communities to make the transition from military service to college a seamless one.

UC <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/veterans/>

CAL State <http://www.calstate.edu/veterans/>, and

CCC For more information contact your local California Community Colleges Veterans Outreach Services Office or visit the [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu) website or write to:

California Community Colleges System Office  
1102 Q Street, 4th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811  
(916) 445.8752

### **Tuition Fee Waiver for Dependents of Service-Connected Disabled Veterans'**

The dependent child, spouse or unmarried surviving spouses of a service connected disabled or deceased veteran may be entitled to tuition and fee waiver benefits at any campus of the California State University system, University of California or a California Community College.

To obtain complete eligibility requirements and assistance in applying for these valuable benefits, please contact your local [County Veterans Service Office](#) or your school's veteran's office. Contact information for the veterans or financial aid office for many California public colleges and universities is available from the Education section CDVA's [California Veterans Resources Database](#).

You may also contact CDVA at (916) 503-8397 or by mail:

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**Note:** The tuition fee waiver benefits allows non-resident to pay at California resident rate at all State of California Community Colleges, California State University or University of California campuses.

## **GI Bill Apprenticeship and OJT Program**

### **Eligibility**

You may be eligible if you are eligible for the GI Bill either under the Active Duty (Veteran) or Reserve GI Bill programs and:

- You are no longer on active duty
- You were recently hired or promoted
- You left active duty less than 10 years ago or
- You are currently a member of the Guard or Reserve (Reserve GI Bill)

So, if you are qualified for the GI Bill and you have started a new job or apprenticeship program, you should apply for this little known GI Bill benefit. In some cases, the VA will even pay retroactively for OJT from the past 12 months.

For additional information on VA benefits for Apprenticeship & On-the-Job Training, contact the VA Education Customer Service Office and speak with an Education Counselor at 1-888-GIBILL1.

**Note:** You may not receive GI Bill OJT benefits at the same time you receive the GI Bill education benefits.

### **Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)**

REAP is designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation)\* as declared by the President or Congress. The Department of Veterans Affairs will administer the program and pay benefits from funds contributed by Department of Defense. However, the DoD and Department of Homeland Security will determine eligibility. REAP benefits are potentially payable from December 9, 2001 (90 days after September 11, 2001) for persons who were serving on a contingency operation on September 11, 2001 and who were in school on December 9, 2001. The Department of Defense may provide further guidance as to the retroactive nature of this program.

### **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program**

[Chapter 35](#) provides education and training opportunities to dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on Active Duty or as a result of a service related condition. Veterans Affairs. The Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of certain veterans. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

### **Work-Study Program**

This program is available to any eligible Veteran or their dependents who are receiving VA education benefits and are attending school three-quarter time or more. An individual working under this program may work at the school veterans' office, VA Regional Office, VA Medical Facilities, or at approved State employment offices.

Work-study students are paid at either the state or Federal minimum wage, which ever is greater. To apply for an internship with an approved State Office, the student must attain an enrollment certification VA form 22-1999-6 from their schools veterans' office. To find out further information on this program go to <http://www.va.gov/>.

### **Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program**

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program has two primary goals. First, to assist the service-disabled veteran to prepare for, obtain, and maintain suitable employment. Second, for those veterans who are severely disabled (100% service connected disability) and for whom gainful employment is not an option, assistance may be provided to allow the veteran to live more independently in his or her community.

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm>

### **California Troops to Teachers**

The Troops to Teachers (TTT) program enriches the quality of American education by placing mature, motivated, experienced and dedicated personnel in our nation's classrooms. Thousands of military retirees, separating active duty personnel, and currently drilling members of the reserve components are discovering new and rewarding careers in teaching our nations children. Veterans who have become public school teachers are "Proud to Serve Again." The program has been successful in producing quality teachers in high demand areas — more men and minorities with experience beneficial to successful teaching in mathematics, science and special education who desire to give back by teaching in economically disadvantaged urban and rural schools.

For more detailed information on your VA education benefits visit:

<http://www.caltroops.org/> or write to:

California Troops to Teachers  
1227 O Street, RM 313  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **Financial Aid for Veterans and Their Dependents**

There are many educational benefits available for Veterans and their dependents in terms of financial aid. The first step to finding out what financial aid benefits you or your dependents might qualify for is to go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> and complete a FAFSA application. Aside from the benefits that the FAFSA might offer there are several other programs that Veterans and their dependents might qualify for.